

Joint Statement on the EU-Israel Association Agreement Review

June 19, 2025

The undersigned human rights and humanitarian organizations and trade unions urge the EU to ensure that the ongoing review of Israel's compliance with article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement be thorough, comprehensive, and credible.

Article 2 establishes that respect for human rights and democratic principles constitutes an "essential element" of the agreement. Amid overwhelming evidence of Israel's atrocity crimes and other egregious human rights abuses against Palestinians throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), a credible review can only reach one conclusion: that Israel is in severe non-compliance with article 2.

In light of this, we call on the European Commission and all EU Member States to support meaningful and concrete measures, including the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, at least in part.

We are appalled that it took the EU so long to launch this review, despite a request by Spain and Ireland already in February 2024, international court rulings, arrest warrants issued by International Criminal Court, and numerous reports by UN bodies, independent experts, prominent NGOs and scholars exposing Israel's very serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law throughout the OPT, including war crimes, crimes against humanity - including forced displacement, apartheid and extermination - and genocide.

Some of these findings were presented to EU foreign ministers in November 2024; but instead of moving towards the suspension of the agreement and taking other appropriate measures, the ministers only agreed to convene a meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council, in which they called for a ceasefire, humanitarian aid at scale, full respect for IHL, and a halting of Israel's illegal settlement policy. Israeli authorities blatantly did the exact opposite of all that, once again to no consequence for EU-Israel bilateral relations – until now.

The context in which this review is being conducted is dramatic and requires urgent and effective action. For months, Israel has completely blocked aid from entering the occupied Gaza Strip, and then tried to replace the UN-led humanitarian aid system in Gaza with military-led distribution hubs, where high numbers of killings of civilians seeking aid have been recorded. This is in breach of Israel's obligations under IHL as an occupying power, and of three binding rulings issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in January, March and May 2024, ordering Israeli authorities to allow the unhindered provision of urgently needed humanitarian aid at scale throughout Gaza to prevent a genocide.

This, along with the expansion of Israel's military operations in Gaza targeting life-sustaining infrastructures, healthcare facilities, shelters, and killing and maiming thousands of civilians since a fragile ceasefire was broken, has continued to cause unspeakable suffering to the illegally besieged Palestinians in Gaza.

As parties to the Genocide Convention, all EU member states have the obligation to "employ all means reasonably available to them" to prevent a genocide. That obligation arises not when a definitive judicial determination is made, but as soon as a state learns, or should normally have learned, of a serious risk that genocide may be committed. The International Court of Justice provided clear guidance in that regard. EU action is long overdue.

But while Gaza might have been the trigger for launching the review of article 2 of the Association Agreement, the scope of the review is broader, concerning Israel's respect for "human rights and democratic principles". We note, in that regard, the landmark July 2024 advisory opinion by the ICJ, which found Israel's occupation of the OPT to be illegal, in breach of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and characterised by other serious violations, including systematic discrimination and racial segregation, as well as unlawful violence and displacement, demolitions, illegal settlements expansion and land seizure. In September, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution largely endorsing that ruling, and formulating a series of calls that have been ignored by Israeli authorities. Furthermore, reports from human rights groups and UN investigations also highlight torture against Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, leading to multiple deaths.

In this context, a weak or inconclusive review of Israel's compliance with article 2, and/or failure by the Commission and Council to suspend at least part of the Association Agreement, would ultimately destroy what's left of the EU's credibility - and, most importantly, it would further embolden Israeli authorities to continue their atrocity crimes and other egregious violations against the Palestinians in total impunity.

The EU must act now, as it long should have.

1. 11.11.11
2. Academics for Palestine
3. Action for Women

4. ActionAid Denmark
5. ActionAid France
6. ActionAid Ireland
7. ActionAid Italy
8. AFPS
9. Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
10. Ambasada Rog
11. Amnesty International
12. ARSIS - Association for the Social Support of Youth
13. Association Belgo-Palestinienne WB
14. Association des Universitaires pour le Respect du Droit International en Palestine (AURDIP)
15. AVAAZ
16. Belgian Academics and Artists for Palestine (BA4P)
17. Bloody Sunday Trust
18. Broederlijk Delen
19. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
20. Centre for Global Education
21. CGT (Confédération générale du Travail)
22. Changemakers Lab
23. Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
24. Christian Aid Ireland
25. CIDAC
26. CIDSE - international family of Catholic social justice organisations
27. Collectif Judéo-Arabe et Citoyen pour la Palestine (CJACP)
28. Comhlámh
29. Comité de Solidaridad con la Causa Árabe
30. Cospe
31. CRID
32. Culture de Palestine
33. Danes je nov dan
34. De-Colonizer
35. Defence for Children International
36. Diakonia
37. DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture
38. Društvo Humanitas - center za globalno učenje in sodelovanje
39. Dutch Scholars for Palestine
40. Ekō
41. Entraide et Fraternité
42. Equal Legal Aid
43. Eurocadres
44. EuroMed Rights
45. European Coordination of Committees and Association for Palestine - ECCP
46. European Jews for Palestine
47. European Middle East Project (EuMEP)
48. European Trade Union Network for Justice in Palestine
49. Fédération Artisans du Monde
50. Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid
51. FGTB-ABVV
52. Finnish Arab Friendship Society
53. Finnish Development NGOs - Fingo
54. Finnwatch ry
55. Fundación Mundubat
56. Gibanje za pravice Palestincev
57. Hellenic League for Human Rights
58. Human Rights Watch
59. Humanity & Inclusion - Handicap International
60. HUSOME
61. Institute 8th of March
62. International Federation for Human Rights - FIDH
63. International Media Support
64. International Rehabilitation Council of Torture Victims (IRCT)
65. Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign
66. Irish Anti War Movement
67. Irish Council for Civil Liberties

68. Jewish Call for Peace
69. Kairos Ireland
70. La Cimade
71. La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo
72. LAB Sindikatua Basque Country
73. Mouvement de la paix france
74. MPPM - Movimento pelos Direitos do Povo Palestino e pela Paz no Médio Oriente
75. My Voice, My Choice
76. NWRG (New Weapons Research Group) odv
77. Olof Palme International Center
78. OVCA - society for awareness raising and protection - center of antidiscrimination
79. Oxfam Ireland
80. Parents for Peace
81. PAX
82. Pax Christi International
83. Pax Christi Vlaanderen (Belgium)
84. Peace Institute
85. PIC - Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment
86. Plan International EU Liaison Office
87. Plataforma por Empresas Responsables
88. Plateforme des ONG françaises pour la Palestine
89. Polish-Palestinian Justice Initiative KAKTUS
90. Proja institute
91. Research and Universities for Palestine Network-Italy
92. Sadaka-the Ireland Palestine Alliance
93. Samos Volunteers
94. SB OVERSEAS - SOUTIEN BELGE OUTRE-FRONTIERES
95. SETEM Catalunya
96. Sindikat Mladi plus (Trade Union Youth Plus)
97. Slovene Philanthropy, Association for the Promotion of Volunteering
98. SOLIDAR
99. Solsoc
100. The European Legal Support Center (ELSC)
101. The Palestine Solidarity Association of Sweden
102. The Rights Forum
103. Trinity College Dublin Students' Union/ Aontas Mac Léinn Choláiste na Tríonóide
104. UGT SPAIN
105. Union juive française pour la paix
106. Union syndicale Solidaires
107. United Against Inhumanity (UAI)
108. Viva Salud
109. Vrede vzw (Belgium)
110. Vredesactie
111. World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)
112. Yoga and Sport With Refugees
113. Zavod 3MUHE